prepared by the
Crown Land Classification Committee

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PROVINCIAL CROWN LAND PLAN for the VIRDEN-WALLACE PLANNING DISTRICT

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I. INTRODUCTION

This Crown land plan classifies to various land uses the Provincial Crown lands in the Virden-Wallace Planning District.

The planning and classification of Provincial Crown land in southern Manitoba is the responsibility of the Crown Land Classification Committee. This is an interdepartmental committee with representation from the Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Northern Affairs, Rural Development, Energy and Mines, and Environment. The Crown Land Classification Committee reports to and receives its direction from the Provincial Land Use Committee of Cabinet.

The Provincial Land Use Committee of Cabinet approves all Provincial Crown Land Plans, including plan amendments. The Crown Land Classification Committee prepares the plan and consults with local planning authorities respecting the plan and plan amendments prior to review by the Provincial Land Use Committee of Cabinet.

The Crown land plan applies only to Provincial Crown land, the jurisdiction of which remains the responsibility of the Manitoba Government. The plan does not address Federal Crown, Indian Reserves or patented lands.

II. CROWN LAND PLANNING COMPONENTS

Crown land planning is a process which is continuous and ongoing. It involves inventory of land and resources, evaluation of capability and suitability, identification of demands and needs, the establishment of goals and objectives, and consultation with local planning authorities.

The goals and objectives (**Section III**) of this Crown land plan were formulated after consideration of the Provincial Land Use Policies in conjunction with Provincial departmental sector goals and objectives. The Crown land allocation procedures, which designated the Crown lands to achieve these goals, utilized accepted basic land-use planning concepts along with current Crown land management and administrative directives and guidelines.

A. PROVINCIAL LAND AND RESOURCE GOALS

The Provincial Land Use Policies form the overall framework for this plan through the guidance and direction they prescribe in the management of the Province's land resource. These policy statements identify general provincial land and resource goals.

The Provincial land and resource goals are:

1) To protect the present and future agricultural industry, to protect land for present and future food production and to foster growth and development in the agricultural industry.

2) To provide for orderly rural development and to reduce rural servicing costs by consolidating development.

3) To safeguard scarce recreational and scenic resources and to protect existing and future recreation areas against overuse and degradation of recreational resources.

4) To recognize the importance of key shorelands and to protect from erosion the integrity and usefulness of this finite resource for recreation, watertable retention requirements, to ensure the viability of critical environments and to ensure the right of public access to major waterways and waterbodies.

5) To ensure that significant land and resource areas are not adversely affected by adjacent land uses.

6) To protect areas critical to the existence and maintenance of rare and endangered flora and fauna and to protect significant natural features which characterize a region and to identify, preserve and protect heritage resources.

7) To maintain and promote economic opportunities, ecological diversity, existing natural resources values and populations and aesthetic qualities of the rural landscape associated with renewable resources utilization.

8) To protect life and property from natural hazards such as flooding and erosion, to maintain the natural capacity of streams to convey flood flows and to protect existing flood control works.

9) To maintain a high level of service and safety on the Province's highways, to protect the provincial investment in highways and to minimize disruption to local development in the future.

10) To protect aggregate and quarry mineral resources and to integrate these areas into the overall planning process.

This Crown land plan does not address provincial transportation, mineral or rural development goals. However, the plan will not preclude procurement of land for roads or limit mineral development or exploration subject to normal review and clearance procedures.

Aspects of schooling, local transportation systems, water supplies for domestic use, etc., are best addressed by local planning authorities more directly responsible to meeting local needs. Where potential conflicts in use occur or where Crown land allocations may impact on rural servicing costs, these issues will be addressed through consultation with the local authority (Council and/or Planning Board). Adjustments may then be made to the plan to address these concerns.

B. CONCEPTS

There are a number of basic concepts which are considered in the planning for Crown land. These concepts influence policy interpretation and Crown land allocation. Therefore, in optimising Crown land and resource use and to maintain a high quality environment, the following apply:

1) The planning of Crown land is undertaken with consideration given to local needs. This is achieved through consultation with local planning authorities and in recognition of the demands identified by government departments in servicing and consulting with their respective client groups.

2) Where there is significant public or private investment, the affected Crown lands are classified and allocated to uses which are in concert with or do not jeopardize the investment in either an economic or physical sense.

3) Current management practices on all Crown land include: the application of multiple land use principles; the protection and improvement of the land's long-term productive capacity; the minimization of erosion and other destructive processes; and the utilization of the land consistent with its inherent capabilities with due consideration given to intensive management.

   a) The application of a multiple land use concept, that is, the utilization of Crown land and resources by competing and complementary users in both time and space requires the identification of areas of compatible land uses wherever possible.

   b) The capability and suitability of the land and water resource base for development is considered.

   c) Classification of erosion-prone or relatively infertile lands to land uses which ultimately lead to a lower productivity of the land base is not acceptable.

   d) In general, a minimum 25 percent of each quarter section is maintained in natural woody vegetation for a number of conservation purposes.

4) Existing land uses and land use patterns are accounted for and considered.

5) In general, existing non-conforming uses on Crown land are accepted and will be allowed to continue until the existing commitment expires or a suitable alternative site for the use can be found.

6) Except where indicated, the plan will not preclude or limit future mineral extraction or exploration on Crown lands where approved by the Provincial Government.

7) The right of public access to Crown land and water for the purposes of sport angling, commercial fishing, hunting, trapping, outdoor recreation pursuits and general access is maintained in accordance with such acts, regulations and contracts as are in effect from time to time.

8) Future permanent development (i.e., residences, summer homes, cottages, commercial buildings, etc.) will be assessed for hazards such as flooding, erosion or bank instability. In general, development shall be subject to the following requirements, excepting under special economic and social circumstances.

a) All permanent development shall be located on land above the 100-year flood level. When it is not possible to estimate the 100-year flood level due to insufficient hydrometric data for the waterway, then an elevation of 1.5 metres (5.0 feet) above the high water mark will be used.

b) Land which may be eroded away within a period of 50 years shall be excluded from development unless it is demonstrated that the erosion process has been halted.

c) Development shall not be permitted on lands subject to bank instability,landslides, or subsidence.

d) Use of Crown land in water power reserve, control areas and licence areas must conform to the above or must not be required for water power purposes. Approval for development and use is required from the Manitoba Natural Resources, Water Resources.

e) In order to minimize surface water quality degradation, development and use of surface water resources shall not exceed the carrying capacity.

9) The plan will not restrict the Province from entering or withdrawing Crown lands for utility rights-of-way, highways, roads, drains, etc., subject to normal clearance and approval procedures.

10) Heritage resources (sites, structures, objects or areas of historic, architectural or archaeological significance) are located on Crown lands. Those resources identified now or in the future shall be protected from uses and activities that will endanger them. Areas containing such resources may be developed only after consultation with the Historic Resources Branch, Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation.

C. MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Land management and administration do not direct land planning and land allocation, but they do influence land use. Where concerns of potential land use conflict can be addressed through management and administration, remedial allocations are avoided. Some of the basic management and administrative factors which apply are:

1) For Crown lands under agricultural use the following apply:

a) The right of public access is in accordance with such acts, regulations and contracts as are in effect from time to time.

b) Access is guaranteed to quarry lease operations subject to compensation being negotiated relative to loss of privately owned improvements.

c) The right of the Province to enter a leased area and to withdraw lease rights on lands for utility rights-of-way, roads, etc., is guaranteed.

d) Lands having greater than nine percent slope must be maintained in native cover or permanent forage.

e) A buffer strip of natural vegetation from 45 to 90 metres wide must be left adjacent to all water-courses and permanent waterbodies.

f) A buffer strip of natural vegetation not less than 45 meters in width should be retained within 90 metres of all municipal and provincial roads.

g) No wetland shall be drained or filled without approval.

h) Topsoil and leaf mat shall not be removed.

i) All livestock must be contained (e.g., fenced). Strips of 15 meters in width per lease can be cleared for fencelines.

j) Merchantable timber is subject to stumpage rates if it is marketable. The Crown retains the right to issue cutting rights to the public by way of timber sale and/or timber permit to harvest timber on Crown lands.

2) Survey monuments defining township, section and quarter-section corners shall not be destroyed.

3) Water quality shall not be adversely affected by Crown land uses. Activities and intensive shoreland developments that discharge pollutants shall be restricted in their location and it may be required that precautionary safeguards which mitigate the adverse effects of pollution be incorporated into the development. These activities and developments shall meet Manitoba's Surface Water Quality Objectives. Shorelands shall be protected from excessive erosion which might affect water quality.

4) Activities such as dumping, excavation, clearing, cultivation, or excessive grazing which would accelerate or promote dangerous erosion or bank instability will be prohibited.

5) Activities that may cause pollution under normal operating conditions or by accident should not be permitted in a groundwater pollution hazard area unless it can be proved by adequate field investigation that the proposed activities will not cause pollution of existing or potential groundwater supply.

6) Groundwater consumption should not exceed the total sustained yield of an aquifer. Wells shall be installed in a manner that will not have a detrimental effect on aquifers. Intensive development (e.g. subdivisions) and high capacity wells will be permitted only in areas where they will not cause a reduction in water supply for existing users.

7) Lakes, streams, rivers, creeks, etc., which are identified as significant fisheries habitat areas shall be protected. The use of Crown land adjacent to these waterways, and particularly spawning sites and/or nursery areas, shall be controlled and managed to minimize damage to fish stocks and fish habitat from siltation, nutrient loading, disturbance and water quality degradation. Manitoba's Surface Water Quality Objectives shall be used to ensure protection for end uses such as fisheries. Management of these adjacent lands shall be in accordance with approved fish habitat protection guidelines and includes, but is not limited to, controlling the clearing, cultivation, timber harvesting, and developing of sites to the water's edge, and maintaining or creating natural vegetation buffers of varying widths as required.

8) Sewage effluent discharges shall meet provincial standards. Flows required to flush and dilute waste waters and protect fish stocks shall be encouraged.

9) Stream crossings shall not adversely affect fish habitat or populations. Where crossings may affect fish habitat, the crossing should be designed and constructed with reference to **Recommended Fish Protection Procedures for Stream Crossings in Manitoba**, prepared by Manitoba Natural Resources.

III. PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goals and objectives outlined for Crown lands are basic to all areas of the Province. The degree to which these goals may be achieved, or the economic or social impact they have, will be determined by the amount of Crown land in a particular area, its dispersal, its capability and suitability for use and development, and present land use, demands and commitments. By sector, the goals and objectives which this plan will address are:

A. AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is the principal land use and industry of rural Agro-Manitoba. It is in the long-term interest of the Province to protect the agricultural industry. This means protecting not only the quality and the quantity of productive land, but protecting the ability of farmers to expand, diversify or change their operations in response to market demand. The principal goals are:

1) To protect agricultural land for present and future production and to foster growth and development in the agricultural industry.

2) To ensure conservation of the natural resources upon which agriculture is dependent.

Comment

Agricultural capabilities on these lands, as measured by the Canada Land Inventory, range from Class 2 through Class 6. (The best lands in the District for agriculture, those of Class 2 and 3, were patented when settlement occurred.) These soils have moderate limitations caused by the cumulative effect of two or more adverse characteristics, including erosion and poor drainage.

In total, 3,246 hectares (8,020 acres) of Crown lands are designated by this plan for agricultural use. This represents 90% of the total Crown lands. 66% of the Crown lands designated for agricultural use are comprised of the Wallace Community Pasture which was organized in 1962, involving 2,140 hectares (5,289 acres). This Community Pasture was established on Class 5 lands which are only suitable for tame hay or wild forage.

Aside from the Community Pasture, the majority of the remaining 1,106 hectares (2,731 acres) of agricultural Crown lands are assigned to Forage Lease, with the balance under Cash Rental Leases. Most of these parcels also hold reservations for wildlife, and for mineral use due to the availability of fossil fuels and gravel deposits.

B. FISHERIES

Sports angling is a major source of recreation for Manitobans and for visitors to the province. It also provides jobs and revenue to the retail, hospitality and manufacturing enterprises which serve them. Commercial fishing, too, is significant in Manitoba, providing income in both the harvesting and processing sectors.

In order that these income and quality-of-life benefits can be sustained and enhanced, the Fisheries goals are:

1) To recognize the need for fisheries management that will result in the greatest long-term benefit to Manitobans and ensure survival and improvement of fish stocks.

2) To establish and maintain a viable commercial and tourist fishing industry wherein participants can earn a reasonable return on their investment and time in a manner which minimizes disruption to traditional use of the fishery.

3) To maintain and enhance angling opportunities for Manitobans to meet existing and future demands.

4) To provide and maintain sufficient fish stocks to support subsistence fishing.

5) To minimize the loss and degradation of habitat due to other competing and non-competing resource uses and to improve degraded habitat.

COMMENT

Fisheries resources are limited within the Planning District, since most water bodies are too shallow and most streams are too intermittent to sustain permanent fish populations. Water depths are usually insufficient to overwinter fish. Existing fisheries depend on upstream watersheds and are greatly affected by nutrient loading and contamination from them.

A short section of the Assiniboine River lies within the Planning District and represents the only significant fisheries habitat within the area which supports a variety of fish species. Pipestone Creek and the downstream end of Gopher Creek offer minor angling opportunities with the occurrence of pike and white suckers. Bosshill Creek is spring-fed, and, near the intersection of PR 83 and PR 257, a private dam has been developed for trout rearing purposes.

Most of the lands covered by water are patented, and there are no Crown lands of significance for fisheries purposes in the Planning District.

C. FORESTRY

The forest industry in Manitoba contributes substantial socio-economic benefits through the harvesting of Crown timber and the production of forest products, goods and services. It is anticipated that in the course of the next 20 years, the forest industry will continue to grow at the rate of about two to three percent per year. It is expected that the socio-economic benefits derived from this growth will continue at the same rate. In order that these benefits can be achieved, Manitoba's forest land must be protected from fire, insects and disease, the most productive sites retained to produce future forests, land that is presently under forest not be further alienated to other incompatible uses, and forested lands managed in the most intensive manner possible. More specifically, the goals are:

1) To maintain a sufficient amount of highly productive Crown lands for long-term forest management purposes. Specifically, highly productive forest lands must be set aside as provincial forests. This will allow for investment by the Province in the necessary management to ensure that such lands provide forests on a continuing and sustained basis.

2) To intensify the management levels on those forest lands to achieve a higher level of productivity than when managed under natural conditions. Intensified management will involve the establishment of new stands on cutover lands utilizing genetically superior seedling stock and utilizing the most up-to-date stand establishment techniques. Subsequent to stand establishment, the intensity of management must be continued in a stand-tending program of forest fertilization, thinning and pruning. In instances where stand establishment has been by natural means, thinning and other silvicultural techniques will be required.

3) To intensify management of lands through a higher degree of protection of stands against the ravages of fire, insects and disease through enhanced fire and pest management programs. Higher levels of utilization will be required of the forest industry so that the greatest amount of fibre produced on a given area will be converted into useful forest products.

COMMENT

The Virden-Wallace Planning District is located within the Aspen Parkland Forest Management Section. Forest Inventory on the area was completed in 1985. Less than 5% of the area has wooded cover, which is comprised primarily of aspen bluffs along the Assiniboine River valley and other valleys and sloughs. On lands which have not been broken for agriculture, prairie grasslands predominate.

Due to the sparseness of tree cover, landowners with forested land on their holdings should consider growing trees as a crop for fuelwood and, more importantly, to provide for the control of precipitation run-off and retarding snow melt and both water and wind erosion, and to provide habitat for wildlife.

D. HERITAGE RESOURCES

Heritage resources are any works of nature or of man that are of interest primarily for their prehistoric, historic, cultural, natural, scientific or aesthetic value including, but not limited to, artifacts, paleontological objects, prehistoric or historic sites, natural sites, structures or objects. Heritage resources are important because they embody information that is essential to an understanding and appreciation of human society. Therefore, heritage resources should be managed so that such information is not irrevocably lost.

The principal goals of heritage resources management are:

1) to identify, preserve and protect heritage resources; and

2) to encourage a public awareness and understanding of, and appreciation for heritage resources.

Heritage resources (sites, structures, objects or areas of historic, architectural or archaeological significance) are located on Crown lands. These resources identified now or in the future shall be protected from uses and activities that will endanger them. Areas containing such resources may be developed only after consultation with the Historic Resources Branch, Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation.

COMMENT

No archaeological, architectural, or historical resources are known to exist on Crown lands in the Planning District. However, because there have been no systematic field surveys here, it is likely that heritage resources will be identified in the future.

E. OUTDOOR RECREATION AND PARKS

Outdoor recreation opportunities are essential to the high quality of life which Manitobans presently enjoy. These activities also make an important contribution to the provincial economy. The provincial government, in conjunction with other levels of government and individual and private enterprise, is an important provider of outdoor recreation opportunities. Present trends suggest that the need for this management function will continue at a high level into the 1990's.

Fundamental to the development of recreational areas is the need to maintain a harmony with natural and man-made environments. Important recreation and resource areas such as waterways and shorelands, prime wildlife habitat, and natural, cultural and historic areas will be identified and protected with adjacent incompatible land and resource uses controlled.

The principal goals are:

1) To provide a variety of types and amounts of outdoor recreational opportunities for the pleasure and enjoyment of the citizens of Manitoba, both now and in the future.

2) To identify and preserve rare, scarce, or special forms of recreation in Manitoba.

3) To provide suitable park areas to allow and encourage the people of Manitoba to enjoy and appreciate each distinct natural landscape in the Province.

COMMENT

The majority of lands within the Planning District are Canada Land Inventory Class 6, representing a low capability for recreation. Along the west and north side of the district, capability for recreation increases slightly to Class 5. The area lends itself to wildlife-related recreational opportunities and those based upon the variations of landscape and patterns of land use.

The Assiniboine River Valley, along the extreme northeast portion of the District, offers the greatest recreational opportunities (Class 4), providing access to the river for canoeing and fishing as well as a greater variation in topography for hiking and aesthetic value. This area is surrounded by the Wallace Community Pasture, which provides for greater tree cover and enhancement of wildlife opportunities.

A 4.56 acre site along the TransCanada, northwest of Virden (NE 06-11-26W) has been designated as the Hargrave Provincial Wayside, a highway rest stop. A second location in the S 1/2 31-12-29W, Kirkella Information Plaza occupies 5 acres located along the TransCanada approximately 1 kilometre from the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border. This parcel is designated as a Provincial Wayside; a rest-stop and information centre at a primary provincial entry site. A third site, Kirkella Provincial Wayside (NW 22-12-29W), occupying 1.77 acres, has been closed since 1984.

One parcel of land located in 29-12-29W has been designated in this plan for outdoor recreational pursuits. Recreational value prevails due to the proximity to the Kirkella Information Plaza.

F. WILDLIFE

A wide variety of wildlife species including birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians occupy the Manitoba environment. Wildlife has economic, cultural, and historical significance to Manitobans who value and use wildlife for food, income, recreation, education and science.

Wildlife is a renewable resource, a cornerstone to environmental health and an important indicator of environmental quality. It is incumbent upon the Province to ensure the long term viability of wildlife. Therefore, the principal goals are:

1) To ensure the provision of wildlife resources that will result in the greatest long-term benefit to Manitobans.

2) To ensure that wildlife populations and their habitats are protected from irreversible damage and that, subject to the effects of natural and approved man-made environmental changes, viable populations are maintained.

3) To maintain population levels of all wildlife species at levels sufficient to meet public demand, including but not limited to demand for: domestic use, recreational use, educational use and commercial use and to maintain, protect and enhance areas suitable for these activities.

4) To protect the integrity of the resource base and intended use of areas designated or proposed by the Province as wildlife management areas from incompatible and possibly damaging uses.

5) To mitigate where possible wildlife depredation damage.

COMMENT

Most of the land in the Planning District has been patented and cleared, substantially reducing the habitat available to wildlife, especially the larger ungulates such as deer. Remaining wildlife habitat is scattered over the area as small bluffs and sloughs. In the eastern part of the District, there is more tree cover and shrub pasture, contained within the Wallace Community Pasture.

The majority of the District is designated as Class 3 for deer with the major creek valleys and tributary ravines rated as Class 2. The tree cover associated with the Community Pasture, sloughs and creek valleys have extreme importance for the winter range of deer in this Planning District.

The Canada Land Inventory rates the majority of the District as being highly productive for waterfowl, since it contains many thousands of potholes and sloughs associated with small bluffs of aspen. Continued depletion of this valuable waterfowl habitat occurring due to draining and clearing.

Presently, there is one quarter section of Wildlife Management Area; the Two Creeks Unit of the Upper Assiniboine WMA, located on SE 22-12-27W. In total, 30% of all Crown land has been designated for wildlife purposes.

IV. CROWN LAND USE CLASSIFICATIONS

The Crown lands in the Virden-Wallace Planning District have been classified into eleven categories. They are (Map 1):

A. Community Pasture
B. Provincial Park
C. Wildlife Management Area
D. Agriculture
E. Agriculture and Wildlife
F. Agriculture and Mineral Extraction
G. Wildlife and Agriculture
H. Wildlife and Agriculture and Mineral Intensive Use
I. Wildlife and Recreation and Agriculture and Mineral Extraction
J. Wildlife Dominant/Agriculture Minor and Mineral Extraction
K. Urban Use.
L. Utility Site.

A. COMMUNITY PASTURE: CLASSIFICATION CP: AS SHOWN ON MAP 1.

PRESENT CONDITION:

The Wallace Community Pasture is located in Townships 11 and 12 in Range 26W, west of the Assiniboine River. The Pasture, organized in 1962, comprises 2,140 hectares (5,289 acres). The Community Pasture was established on Class 5 lands and includes 66% of the Crown lands designated for agricultural use within the Planning District.

The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) manages the community pasture program in Manitoba. PFRA provides development and management expenses of the pasture while the Province acquires the necessary land. Manitoba Agriculture, Agriculture Crown Lands Branch is responsible for the Province's activities.

The pasture provides off-farm grazing for local residents in the community. Patrons are charged a user fee to recover the annual operating costs of the pasture. In addition, a municipal levy is also assessed to each patron.

CONCERNS/OBJECTIVES:

To provide areas for grazing by the local farming community. Additionally, to utilize fragile lands and to manage them as effectively as possible for agricultural purposes where appropriate.

The intent of this classification is to identify those lands which have been officially set aside for agricultural use and those pending Order-in-Council for the Community Pasture.

POLICIES/GUIDELINES:

1. Community Pasture - CP

The management and operation of the Wallace Community Pasture is the responsibility of PFRA, Government of Canada, in conjunction with the Agricultural Crown Lands Branch, Manitoba Government. The management of this Community Pasture shall be guided by the following:

1a) The Province of Manitoba in conjunction with the Government of Canada will maintain the community pasture for the use of the local farming community.

B. PROVINCIAL PARK: CLASSIFICATION PP: AS SHOWN ON MAP 1.

PRESENT CONDITION:

Two Provincial Park developments exist within the Planning District. Hargrave Wayside, occupying 1.8 hectares (4.6 acres) in NE 06-11-26W on the north side of the TransCanada Highway, functions as a highway rest stop. Kirkella Information Plaza, occupying 2 hectares (5 acres) in S 1/2 31-12-29W, on the south side of the TransCanada Highway, functions as a rest-stop and informational site. Kirkella Information Plaza is a primary provincial entry node, being approximately 1 kilometre from the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border.

Kirkella Provincial Wayside, occupying 1.77 acres in NW 22-12-29W was closed in 1984 with the land now remaining vacant.

CONCERNS/OBJECTIVES:

The principal objective is to provide facilities for the convenience and enjoyment of the motoring public, and rest stops for the travelling tourist.

This classification identifies those lands which have been designated Provincial Park.

POLICIES/GUIDELINES:

2. Provincial Park - PP

The management of Hargrave and Kirkella Wayside Parks are the responsibility of Manitoba Natural Resources, Parks Branch. The management of these Parks shall be guided by the following:

2a) The Province of Manitoba will maintain its facilities at these Parks for the use and enjoyment of the local, provincial and travelling public, consistent with existing and future park plans.

C. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA: CLASSIFICATION WW: AS SHOWN ON MAP 1.

PRESENT CONDITION:

One quarter section has been designated as Wildlife Management Area; the Two Creeks Unit which is one of several units that constitute the Upper Assiniboine Wildlife Management Area, established in 1976. The W.M.A.'s units are located within seven municipalities; Wallace, Woodworth, Sifton, Daly, Archie, Miniota and Hamiota. Its purpose is to provide the necessary tree and shrub cover for waterfowl and upland game as well as essential winter range for deer in an area that is predominantly open grasslands.

CONCERNS/OBJECTIVES:

The principal objective is to maintain appropriate areas for the management and conservation of wildlife in the Province.

This classification identifies those lands which have been set aside for wildlife habitat preservation, maintenance and enhancement through Order-in-Council designation as Wildlife Management Area.

POLICIES/GUIDELINES:

3. Wildlife Management Area - WW

The administration of the Wildlife Management Area is the responsibility of Manitoba Natural Resources, Wildlife Branch.

3a) The Wildlife Management Area will be administered for the preservation and maintenance of wildlife and wildlife habitat.

3b) These lands may be available for limited agricultural activities (haying, beekeeping) as determined by management requirements and at the discretion of Wildlife Branch.

3c) These lands are not available for agricultural development because of their importance as habitat. They are to remain as they occur in nature, though habitat improvement is not excluded.

3d) Other general land uses will be restricted to those which are supportive and compatible with the intent of the classification. For example, these lands are available for hiking, cross-country skiing, bird watching, nature photography, berry and mushroom picking, and the like.

D. AGRICULTURE: CLASSIFICATION A: AS SHOWN ON MAP 1.

PRESENT CONDITION:

There are only two half sections of Crown land; 249 hectares (614 acres), located in the W 1/2 11-10-26W and the E 1/2 29-12-27W, designated solely for agricultural use. The Crown lands designated for agricultural use are best suited for the production of hay and grazing, due to their severe soil limitations.

CONCERNS/OBJECTIVES:

The principal objective is to recognize the capability of some of the limited Crown lands in this area for agriculture and to ensure their effective use.

POLICIES/GUIDELINES:

4. Agriculture - A

Administration of agricultural leases and permits is the responsibility of the Agricultural Crown Lands Branch.

4a) These Crown lands are generally available for hay and grazing. Agricultural development and land clearing is allowed in most instances, but the amount of clearing will be specified. These lands are suitable for long-term commitment.

4b) Manitoba Natural Resources will consider and recommend the appropriate management of any site which requires special management, as it may affect resource interests.

4c) Other general land uses may be permitted if compatible with the basic intent of the classification.

E. AGRICULTURE AND WILDLIFE: CLASSIFICATION A/W: AS SHOWN ON MAP 1.

PRESENT CONDITION:

This classification, which recognizes the need for both agricultural lands and wildlife habitat in this area, is applied to approximately 195 hectares (480 acres) of Crown land within the Planning District (E 1/2 & NW 11-12-27W).

Agricultural development is allowed, under long-term commitment to forage lease, but is controlled to retain some habitat for wildlife. This parcel provides necessary tree and shrub cover for waterfowl and upland game as well as essential winter range for deer. These lands provide augmented wildlife habitat in support of the nearby Wildlife Management Area Unit.

CONCERNS/OBJECTIVES:

The principal objective is to recognize existing use and land capability of these lands to provide an integrated balance of agricultural production and wildlife habitat.

POLICIES/GUIDELINES:

5. Agriculture and Wildlife - A/W

General management of these parcels is the responsibility of Manitoba Natural Resources, who will determine the appropriate management of each parcel.

5a) These lands are generally available for haying or grazing on a long-term basis, with some development allowed. The specific use, intensity and management will be specified. Agricultural leases and permits are the responsibility of Agricultural Crown Lands Branch.

5b) Other general land uses which are supportive of and compatible with the intent of this classification are allowed, including habitat improvement.

F. AGRICULTURE AND MINERAL EXTRACTION: CLASSIFICATION A/M: AS SHOWN ON MAP 1.

PRESENT CONDITION:

One half-section (S 1/2 19-10-26W); 130 hectares (320 acres) are classified in a manner to integrate agricultural use and the potential for the extraction of a mineral deposit. This parcel has limited suitability (C.L.I. Class 5) for some forms of agriculture, such as hay and grazing, and is governed under a cash rental lease. A quarry lease is maintained on this parcel by Manitoba Energy and Mines. The presence of an aggregate deposit beneath this parcel requires that no permanent development be allowed on it until the mineral is extracted.

CONCERNS/OBJECTIVES:

The principal objective is to recognize the capability of this Crown land for agriculture and to ensure its effective use.

The secondary objective is to protect existing and future mineral extraction areas and their related support sites.

POLICIES/GUIDELINES:

6. Agriculture and Mineral Extraction - A/M

Administration of mineral leases is the responsibility of Manitoba Energy and Mines. Administration of agricultural leases and permits is the responsibility of Agricultural Crown Lands.

6a) Mineral extraction is permitted.

6b) Upon depletion of the mineral resource, this land will be reclassified A and policies 4a to 4c will apply.

6c) These Crown lands are available for hay and grazing, with long-term commitment, but no further development is allowed.

6d) Other general land uses may be permitted if compatible with the basic intent of the classification.

G. WILDLIFE AND AGRICULTURE: CLASSIFICATION W/A: AS SHOWN ON MAP 1.

PRESENT CONDITION:

Two parcels of Crown land (E 1/2 29-10-28W and 11-11-28W) consisting of approximately 389 hectares (960 acres) have been designated recognizing the need for both the protection of wildlife habitat and agricultural use in this area.

These parcels are distributed within the interior of the Planning District and provide necessary tree and shrub cover for waterfowl and upland game as well as essential winter range for deer, in an area that has experienced increasing pressure due to agricultural clearing. Studies have indicated that deer on summer range close to the Saskatchewan border will habitually return to the Assiniboine Valley in winter, and thus the scattered tree cover and bluffs become increasingly valuable wildlife habitat.

Agricultural development is allowed, under long-term commitment to forage lease, but is controlled to retain some habitat for wildlife.

CONCERNS/OBJECTIVES:

To protect areas for the mutual benefit of wildlife and agriculture which recognize basic land capability, existing use and past management efforts directed at agricultural and habitat management integration.

POLICIES/GUIDLINES:

7. Wildlife and Agriculture - W/A

Administration of agricultural leases is the responsibility of Agricultural Crown lands. Management of the lands, however, is a joint responsibility involving Manitoba Natural Resources. In respect of achieving the objectives of integrated habitat and agricultural management, the following applies:

7a) These Crown lands are available for agricultural use, however, management, use and intensity of use will be in keeping with the interests of agricultural and wildlife habitat management.

7b) Depending on the management concerns for wildlife, hay and/or grazing may be allowed. These lands are available for long-term commitment to agriculture. Agricultural development may be allowed but will be restricted to protect the wildlife interests in the area.

7c) Other general land uses may be permitted if compatible with the basic intent of the classification.

H. WILDLIFE AND AGRICULTURE AND MINERAL INTENSIVE USE: CLASSIFICATION W/A/MM: AS SHOWN ON MAP 1.

PRESENT CONDITION:

One parcel of land, E 1/2 10-10-28W, having 130 hectares (320 acres) has been classified principally for wildlife use, with some allowance for agricultural activity (hay and grazing) and has also been identified as having a valuable mineral deposit, the establishment of an oil field.

Oil was discovered in the district and surrounding areas in the early 1950's and production continues today from a number of wells. This deposit may be worked at any time, and other development is precluded until this occurs.

CONCERNS/OBJECTIVES:

To protect high quality wildlife habitat, to provide areas for agricultural use where this can be integrated with other uses, and to protect existing and future extraction areas.

POLICIES/GUIDELINES:

8. Wildlife Dominant/Agriculture Minor and Mineral Extraction - WA/M

Management of these lands is the responsibility of Manitoba Natural Resources. In respect of the objectives of integrated habitat and agricultural management, and the protection of mineral resources, the following apply:

8a) These Crown lands are available for agricultural use, but management, use, and intensity of use will be in keeping with the interests of agriculture, waterfowl habitat management, and mineral extraction.

8b) Mineral extraction is permitted.

8c) Upon depletion of the mineral resource, the area will be reclassified to W/A, and policies 7a to 7c will apply.

8d) Administration of mineral leases is the responsibility of Manitoba Energy and Mines. Administration of agricultural leases is the responsibility of Agricultural Crown Lands.

8e) Other general land uses may be permitted if compatible with the basic intent of the classification.

I. WILDLIFE AND OUTDOOR RECREATION AND AGRICULTURE AND MINERAL EXTRACTION: CLASSIFICATION W/R/A/M: AS SHOWN ON MAP 1.

PRESENT CONDITION:

One parcel of land, comprising 42 hectares (103 acres) in NW 29-12-29W, has been classified primarily for wildlife and outdoor recreation with allowance made for agriculture in the form of haying under a cash rental lease. Prior to 1984, a Provincial Wayside Park was maintained within this parcel along the TransCanada Highway as a prime entry node to the Province. Though this site is no longer maintained as a wayside, it provides a high recreational capability based upon the wildlife-related recreation opportunities and the associated interesting landscape and patterns of land use. Due to the increasing pressures from agricultural clearing, this land has great importance in providing necessary wildlife habitat.

This parcel has been classified for mineral extraction as well. Currently, 6 hectares (15 acres) are reserved for gravel extraction.

CONCERN/OBJECTIVES:

The principal objective is to protect high quality wildlife habitat and to maintain significant wildlife areas.

Secondary objectives are to protect existing recreational developments from conflicting adjacent land uses and to provide recreational open space for travellers and the general public as well as providing areas for agricultural use where this can be integrated with other uses.

It is also a secondary and interim objective to protect existing and future extraction areas and their related support sites.

POLICIES/GUIDELINES:

9. Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation and Agriculture and Mineral Extraction - W/R/A/M

To protect wildlife habitat, existing and future recreational developments, areas for extensive recreational activities, to provide areas for agricultural use where this can be integrated with other uses, and to protect existing and future extraction sites and their related support sites, the following apply:

9a) Mineral extraction is permitted. Administration of mineral leases is the responsibility of Manitoba Energy and Mines.

9b) This Crown land is available for agricultural use, but management, use, and intensity of use will be in keeping with the interests of agriculture, wildlife habitat management and mineral extraction.

9c) Administration of agricultural lease(s) is the responsibility of Agricultural Crown Lands. Management of the land, however, is a joint responsibility involving Manitoba Natural Resources.

9d) Any development or improvement of this parcel will be restricted pending depletion of the mineral deposit.

9e) When the extraction activities are complete, the parcel will be reclassified for wildlife and recreation and agriculture, W/R/A.

9f) Other uses may be considered if appropriate and compatible with the intent of this classification as determined by Manitoba Natural Resources. No use or commitment is allowed which will jeopardize its recreational potential.

J. WILDLIFE DOMINANT/AGRICULTURE MINOR AND MINERAL EXTRACTION: CLASSIFICATION WA/M: AS SHOWN ON MAP 1.

PRESENT CONDITION:

One parcel of land, located at 29-10-29W having 260 hectares (640 acres) has been classified principally for wildlife use, with agricultural activity allowed.

Sparse tree cover within the Planning District demonstrates a high need to protect and enhance existing wildlife habitat. Of prime importance for this area is providing the essential tree and shrub cover for both summer and winter range for waterfowl and upland game. Though allowance has been made for agricultural use, due to the poor drainage in this location, this parcel is suitable only for grazing.

These lands have also been identified as having a valuable mineral deposit which may be worked at any time, so that other development is precluded until this occurs.

CONCERNS/OBJECTIVES

To protect high quality wildlife habitat, to provide areas for agricultural use where this can be integrated with other uses, and to protect existing and future extraction areas.

POLICIES/GUIDELINES:

10. Wildlife Dominant/Agriculture Minor and Mineral Extraction - WA/M

Management of these lands is the responsibility of Manitoba Natural Resources. In respect of the objectives of integrated habitat and agricultural management, and the protection of mineral resources, the following apply:

10a) These Crown lands are available for agricultural use, but management, use, and intensity of use will be in keeping with the interests of agriculture, waterfowl habitat management, and mineral extraction.

10b) Mineral extraction is permitted.

10c) Upon depletion of the mineral resource, the area will be reclassified to WA.

10d) Administration of mineral leases is the responsibility of Manitoba Energy and Mines. Administration of agricultural leases is the responsibility of Agricultural Crown Lands. Management of the lands, however, is a joint responsibility involving Manitoba Natural Resources.

10e) Other general land uses may be permitted if compatible with the basic intent of the classification.

K. OTHER MISCELLANEOUS INTENSIVE USE: CLASSIFICATION XM

PRESENT CONDITION:

There are a few areas identified as other miscellaneous use. This classification identifies areas being used as or identified for future use as garbage dumps, disposal areas, air strips, research areas, etc.

CONCERNS/OBJECTIVES:

To recognize and delineate areas under long term commitment for purposes such as research, garbage disposal, etc.

POLICIES/GUIDELINES:

11. Other Miscellaneous - XM

The following applies:

11a) Administration of this area is the responsibility of Manitoba Natural Resources.

11b) Management and use of this area will be in accordance with the existing lease between the Province and the lessor.

L. URBAN USE: CLASSIFICATION U

PRESENT CONDITION:

Crown land parcels may occur within the boundaries of unincorporated or incorporated towns and villages within the area. The area in and around these settlements is influenced by, and often required for, urban uses.

CONCERNS/OBJECTIVES:

The principal concern is to recognize that Crown lands may be within existing settlements, and to ensure that the use of these lands is consistent with the plans of local government.

POLICIES/GUIDELINES:

12. Urban Use - U

These lands are administered by Manitoba Natural Resources in a manner to ensure that Crown land use is consistent with the efficient provision of municipal services, and that use of this land does not otherwise conflict with local government plans and regulations.

12a) These lands are available for a variety of uses provided that the use is not in violation of any approved plan or by-law of the local government.

12b) The local planning authority shall determine whether any proposed use of these lands conforms to their plan or by-law.

12c) In the absence of an approved plan or by-law, the local authority shall determine whether any proposed use is compatible with the local urban environment.

M. UTILITY SITE: CLASSIFICATION UT

PRESENT CONDITION:

There are small parcels of Crown land associated with drains, roads, trails, and power lines occurring in the Planning District. Normally, all such parcels and the associated utility are transferred to the authority responsible for the utility site.

CONCERNS/OBJECTIVES:

It is essential that lands containing public investment in roads, drains, and other utility right-of-ways be identified and protected from incompatible uses.

POLICIES/GUIDELINES:

13. Utility Site - UT

13a) The management and administration of these sites shall be in accordance with their specific purpose by Manitoba Natural Resources and the agency responsible for the utility.

13b) Secondary uses, such as hay cutting, may be permitted if compatible with the purpose of the site and with the approval of the agency responsible for the utility.

V. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The Crown land plan identifies the major classifications for Crown land. There may be other site-specific uses which are not indicated in the plan. Recognition of this fact is important as some specific allocations, (residences, for example) may not be indicated but are nonetheless protected by the very nature of the legal commitment to individuals through the leasing and permitting process of Crown lands.

Site-specific uses, that is, most land uses occurring on Crown land utilizing less than 16 hectares (40 acres), which are not shown in the plan, will be listed in Appendix 1, as considered appropriate.

VI. GENERAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

A. Plan Approval and Review

Plan approval and any subsequent approval of amendments to the plan shall be by the Provincial Land Use Committee of Cabinet.

Existing policy and procedure for plan and amendment approval require consultation with local planning authorities. Additionally, full review and approval by provincial government departments and agencies through the Interdepartmental Planning Board is also required.

This plan shall be reviewed at such time as the Provincial Land Use Committee of Cabinet or the Crown Land Classification Committee considers it necessary or when the Local Planning Authority is reviewing its Development Plan or 5 years after coming into effect of the plan or from the last review, as the case may be.

The Crown Land Classification Committee is responsible for ensuring that future plan reviews, proposed amendments and classification appeals are processed and implemented as per approved policy and procedure.

B. Land Use Implementation

The land use intent as outlined in this Provincial Crown Land Plan shall be carried out through the application of the "Interdepartmental Operational Crown Land Plan" prepared for the area.

Operational Crown Land Plans are prepared, amended and approved by the Crown Land Classification Committee. Appeals to operational plans shall also be directed to the Crown Land Classification Committee, with the Provincial Land Use Committee being the final authority.

These Operational Plans shall:

a) be consistent with and carry out the intent of this Plan, and

b) identify in map format the permitted uses and intensity of use for the parcels of Crown land in the area.

The approval of this Provincial Crown land plan does not require the Province of Manitoba to undertake any proposal therein suggested or outlined but no undertaking or development within the plan area affected by this Crown land plan shall be carried out that is inconsistent or at variance with the proposals or policies set out in this Crown land plan.

C. Land Use Administration

The use of Crown land is administered through instruments such as leases, permits, contracts, agreements, etc., which are issued by the Crown to individuals, corporations, etc., or declared by the Crown through Orders-in-Council.

Most of the Crown land outside of Order-in-Council areas (i.e., Crown land not included in Community Pastures, Provincial Parks, Provincial Forests, and Wildlife Management Areas) is administered by the authority of the Crown Lands Act. This Act is administered by Manitoba Natural Resources, Lands with certain specified sections being the responsibility of Manitoba Agriculture, Agricultural Crown Lands.

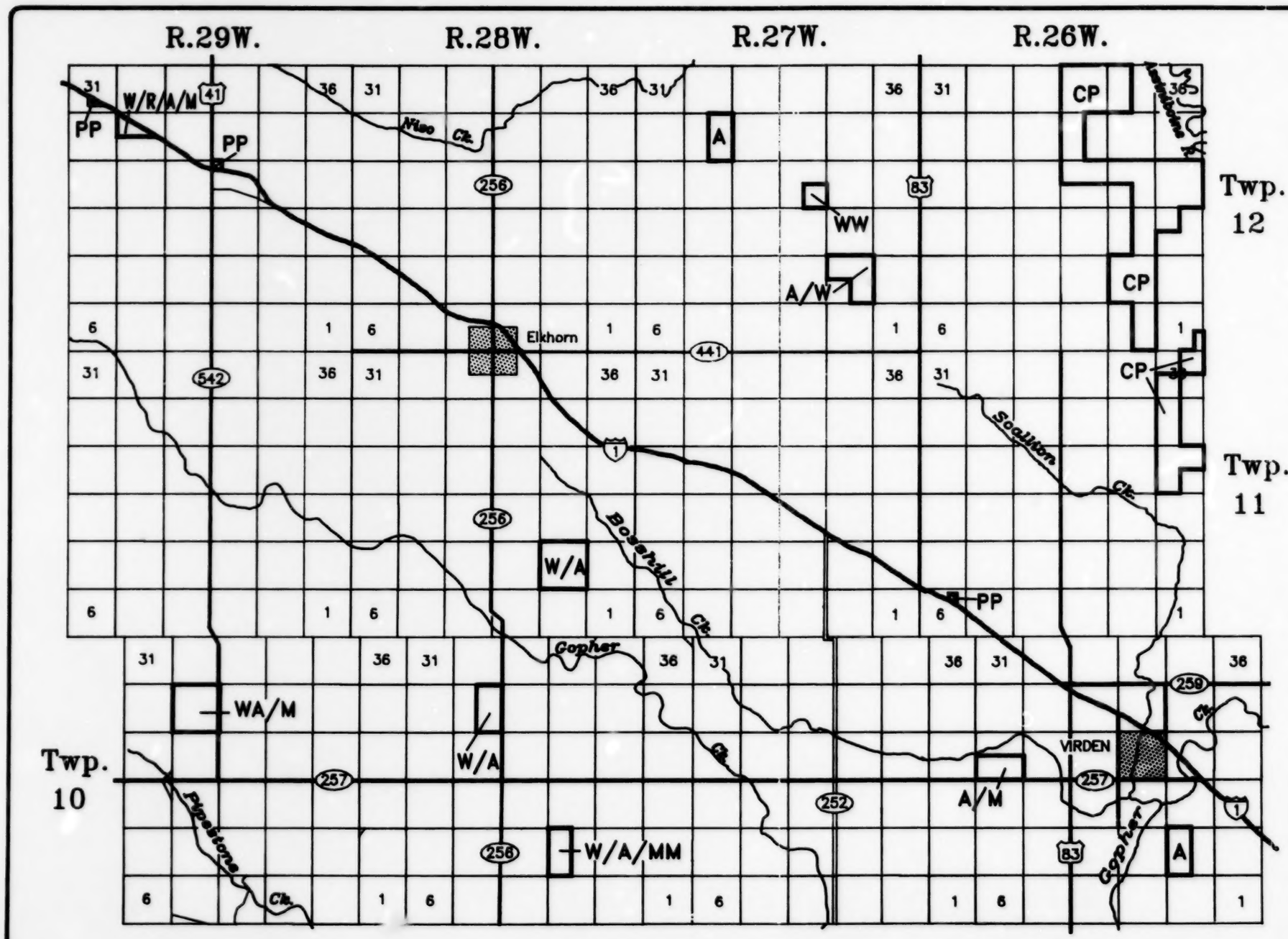
These contracts, leases, permits, agreements, etc., must be in conformity with this Plan, local by-laws and the Interdepartmental Operational Crown Land Plan.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1. Site Specific Crown Land Classifications

Description	Detail	Area (a)	Roll #	Code
Pt NW 16-10-26W	Highways Reservation	11.98	9900	XM
NE 01-11-27W	Manitoba Telephone System	.14	128550	XM
Pt SE 03-12-28W	Highways Yard	3.0	182150	XM
Pt SW 04-12-28W	Mines Branch Reservation	.26	183000	XM
Pt SW 10-12-29W	Highways corner	2.72	200850	XM
Pt NE 16-12-29W	Highways Reservation	1.98	203150	XM

RECORD OF AMENDMENTS



MAP 1. PROVINCIAL CROWN LAND PLAN – JUNE, 1989.

- **CP** Community Pasture
- **PP** Provincial Park
- **WW** Wildlife Management Area
- **A** Agriculture
- **A/W** Agriculture & Wildlife
- **A/M** Agriculture & Mineral Extraction
- **W/A** Wildlife & Agriculture
- **W/A/MM** Wildlife & Agriculture & Mineral Intensive Use
- **W/R/A/M** Wildlife & Recreation & Agriculture & Mineral Extraction
- **WA/M** Wildlife Dominant/ Agriculture Minor & Mineral Extraction

VIRDEN–WALLACE PLANNING DISTRICT